

## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SALT LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE

2370 South 2300 West  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119

3000 (U-027)

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Diane Neilson  
Utah Div. of Oil, Gas & Mining  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180

Dear Ms. Neilson:

A significant salt loss problem has been identified on the Bonneville Salt Flats as evidenced by salt surveys completed by the Utah Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) along with studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (Lines, 1979). Over a 28 year period, the salt loss has been about 1% per year.

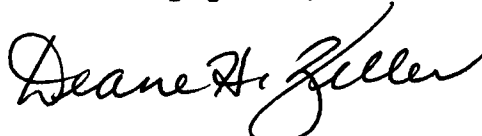
In an attempt to find the cause of the salt loss, the Salt Lake District has received funding to study the problem and discover possible ways to mitigate. The USGS will conduct the study over a 3 year period. The Salt Flats were the subject of a comprehensive study by the USGS in the late 1970's (Lines, 1979) which might make you question why another study? Computer modeling of brine systems has advanced significantly in the last 10 years and is now based on brine chemistry rather than the fresh water head equivalent used in the previous studies. Since fresh water modeling of brine systems can give incorrect flow directions, it is considered necessary to have a state-of-the-art study in order to understand the "cycle of the salt." It is also important to factor in significant climatological occurrences such as the unprecedented flooding in 1984.

As part of the study process, I am forming a technical review committee. The committee's duties will consist of review and comment on the USGS Salt Flats Study Plan, technical review of interim reports by the USGS, recommendations concerning the scope of the USGS study, and will serve as liaison with people interested in the salt flats. The committee will consist of six or seven members having a strong background in geology, hydrology, or other earth sciences.



If you are interested in being a member of the review committee, please submit a brief letter stating your qualifications and interest in the salt flats to District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84119. However, if you are not interested or your schedule will not allow you to participate, you may nominate someone who is interested and qualified. In either case, the requested information should be submitted in time to reach the District Manager no later than December 20, 1989. If you have any questions, please contact Jordon C. Pope at 977-4300.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deane H. Zeller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Deane H. Zeller  
District Manager